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August 24, 2006

Dear Committee Members:

As you can see from the attached letter, the Maryland Health Care Commission has received a revised proposal for the CPORT-II study from Dr. Thomas Aversano and has asked that we continue our service as the scientific review panel for the revised proposal.

Both the Commission and I would greatly appreciate your participation. Should you agree, I would suggest the following approach:

- Please review the enclosed documents: the revised proposal, the panel's previous review, and a summary of both the panel's concerns about the original proposal and the steps Dr. Aversano has taken to address them. (Please note that the revised proposal has two sections: the proposal itself and the study protocol. Much of the language of the study protocol simply repeats the sections of the proposal itself in a somewhat different order and need not be reviewed.)
- When you have reviewed the materials, would you please prepare a preliminary review addressing two fundamental questions:
 - Does Dr. Aversano's revised proposal address the scientific concerns expressed in the panel's review of the original proposal? Please comment on any unresolved concerns or on any new concerns you may have about the proposal.
 - Is the proposed research program now scientifically sound and capable of producing reliable information to guide public policy?
- If at all possible, could you please send this initial review within the next three weeks to dsands@mhcc.state.md.us. At that point, I will review the comments received and develop a course of action.

I hope that we can count on your participation and I look forward to working together again on this panel.

Sincerely,

David Faxon, M.D.